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WHO SAID..?

"Your Honour... on Thursday evening we were shown on the ABC (tv, Australia) a film called PLAIN AND SACRED RIGHT... It showed scenes which depicted the directors of RT-Z, including Sir Roderick Carnegie, a witness in this case twice, with what can only be described as Hitlerian visages, apparently immune or insensitive to the pleas of people purporting to be Aborigines, pleading for land rights or a fair go... we are looking closely as to whether it amounts to contempt of court."

ANSWER: Mr. Bennet, QC for Canalco in the Australian High Court on August 29th 1983, during a hearing against ABC-TV for screening an earlier attack on RT-Z called STRANGERS IN THEIR OWN LAND (Granada TV). PLAIN AND SACRED RIGHT, an Everyman film (BBC-TV) used stills from the RT-Z age of 1982 taken by Phil Wolmuth.

Welcome!

This is the first PARTIZANS newsletter for six months. Just when Rio Tinto thought it was safe to go back in the mine, the opposition clammers to the surface with (hopefully) a few deep shafts of wit and wisdom! Parting Company is woefully late (or, if you prefer, well in time for the winter solstice) because - thanks to the expenses of the May rate, Partizans ran clean out of cash in June. Some sterling supporters helped bail us out, and we think we can promise revived campaigning (and more newsletters) well into 1984.

Meanwhile - thanks to you for continuing to support us; or - if you're a newcomer, for taking the time to find out what we are up to.

Please make as much use of the material here as you can.

How BP is lying about its concern for Aborigines...
Barclays’ apartheid connection

Financial Times 18/4/83

In the weeks leading up to the London-based Barclays National, its South African subsidiary, announced its intention to withdraw from South Africa and to剥离 its investments in South Africa. The Barclays board, under the leadership of Mr..Duration Gupta, the company's chairman, decided that the company would no longer invest in South Africa, citing the country's apartheid policies as a violation of the company's ethical standards.

SEC Alters Rules on Annual Meetings

By Richard L. Hudson

President of The Wall Street Journal

The Securities and Exchange Commission made it slightly harder for social activists and small shareholders to force corporate constituents into annual meetings at corporate annual meetings.

At a meeting yesterday, the commissioner's advisors voted 5-1 to adopt new rules governing the procedure by which questions come up for meeting voters. The provisions include a requirement that Shareowners submitting a proposal own at least 10,000 of the company's stock or 5% of the stock outstanding, whichever is greater. The rules also make it easier for a company to preclude consideration of proposals that haven't garnered majority votes in past meetings.

The new SEC rules are aimed at cutting down slightly on what management considers irrevocable or futile proposals that corporations print in their proxy material and solicit shareholder votes on. The changes are unusually urged by a group of shareholders who, in a letter, complained that existing SEC rules are so liberal that they provide unnecessary opportunities to become targets of activism for companies opposed to such things as trade in South Africa, nuclear power and sales of that formula in developing countries.

WSJ 17/6/83

Companies lose their favourite gangsters

HUNDREDS of leading Japanese companies are going for a showdown with a peculiar breed of racketeers who may seek to disrupt their shareholders' meetings at the end of June.

For years they have had large amounts of hard money to invest in the so-called "sokayki" from students and investors. The annual or half-yearly meetings, called the "sokayki," are the moment when these companies and shareholders sell their shares to the public, using force when necessary.

But this year, for the first time, the shareholders meetings are subject to revised commercial code which aims to eliminate the threats from these gangsters. The companies are no longer allowed to hold meetings and shareholders are excluded from voting at the meetings. Despite this, hundreds of shareholders are determined to flex their muscles.

The shareholders have already voted their withdrawal from the loss of shares earned by raising dividends and other payments. According to the company's chairman, Mr. Timothy Gupta, the company's shares are currently trading at a premium of 25% over the market price.

Since the change in the share price, the company's earnings have increased, resulting in higher dividends and other payments. Gupta said he was happy about the change in the law. The chairman added: "This is why large companies prefer paying higher dividends and other payments, not because the company is a Sokaiya, but because the company is more ethical."
The TUC has called for fundamental changes in the administration of union pension funds which, if implemented, would result in money being channeled to British industry and not predominantly into multinational coffers overseas.

For a year now, the National Union of Mineworkers Pension Fund has made no new investment—thanks to a policy pioneered by Arthur Scargill of trying to sideline out of the hands of professional, conservative, fund managers and put it in the hands of unionists. Basically, this means trying to build up investment in home-based industry and stop the flow of workers' cash to foreign banks. The fund currently holds 12% of its money in锰, 20% in Shell and BP and 15% in overseas investments—more directly in South Africa but clearly with companies which do considerable business in the apartheid state.

Now the trustees of the National Coal Board are considering whether to take the NUN to court to try and restore the status quo ante. Watch this space.

A Church of England theological college is selling 10,000 shares in six British companies which have substantial links with South Africa. (RTZ is not believed to be one of them.) At the same time it is holding onto its Barclays current account—though the student body has voted to sell all investments. Westcott College, Cambridge, has at least taken one bull by the horns. The Church Commissioners, on the other hand, have still not sold their shares in companies with South African interests (believed almost certainly to include Rio Tinto-Zinc) despite a synod resolution calling for this more than a year ago. At its annual congress in April this year the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union condemned its executive for not deciding to recommend divestment from South Africa.

After the sea-bed, the desert, the rain forests and the National Parks—what else? Oh yes! THE ANTARCTIC!

It was once said that RTZ encircled the globe—all except for Antarctica. Whether or not Britain's largest manganese mining multinational is doing its best to keep traditional parkas playing up to its chilly image is another matter.

Among the fourteen countries partly to the Antarctic Treaty, only two—Argentina and Chile—can in any sense be called "third world." and among the rest, Britain and France are not urging the establishment of "normal mineral rights" to this huge untapped zone. It's virtually a carbon-copy of the policy that Britain, France, the USA and other countries are pursuing over resources at the bottom of the sea.

The problems of getting to Antarctic minerals under 2,000 metre ice-caps are enormous, and not much has been found as yet—at least that's what the companies would have us believe.

Robert Fisk, consulting geologist to RTZ, tells us that "The economics of Antarctic hard minerals seem impossible." On the other hand, it would be naive not to believe that RTZ isn't playing some role in recent secret talks aimed at "de-naturing" the Antarctic. These talks were blown by Greenpeace heads back in June, when draft proposals drawn up by Chris Bendy, chair of a preliminary treaty meeting. These draft proposals quite clearly—in the words of the Guardian (25/6)—"suggest the establishment of an exploitation regime, the exact nature of which is not yet clear, and which may include any or all of the following: the setting up of an authority to control the development of resources, the development of a system of licensing and the setting up of a revenue system, and the setting up of a system of monitoring and enforcement."

Atlantic World College

One of the teachers at the Atlantic World College in Wales—an institution funded in part by Rio Tinto-Zinc—is planning an exposure of the company (not the college which has a good reputation).

Would any present or past students/teachers of Atlantic College contact us at PARTIZANS.

RTZ lines up with Tricentrol

The long arm of coincidence could carry quite a punch on Wednesday this week—or at some of the market's more cynical customers believe. For one that day Tricentrol is due to report its six months earnings figures. As at about the same time Rio Tinto-Zinc publishes its own. And, as every market knows, RTZ has been an avid buyer of Tricentrol shares, holding, it is believed, 25% of the share capital of the company.

The plot, however, thickens. Tricentrol's figures should have been published a month ago. Instead they were deferred to September 21—and at the time no one realised that RTZ was also scheduled to report. The excuse for the delay? "We're bringing the figures into line with the new reporting method." That is, of course, tricentrol. SSAAP 2010 refers to foreign currency translation and is a beast of a standard. But enough to mean a delay of a month?

Marketers looking for an offer from RTZ at between £3 and £4 a share were busy pushing Tricentrol back towards 240p late last week. Hold on tight.
Under mining

BP

Part of the protests against BP in London on August 29

UK sit-in over Roxby

LONDON, Monday.— Aborigi
nal land rights demonstrators
today invaded the Australian
High Commission premises,
South Australia, and staged a sit-in.

According to Australian House
spokesman, scores of protesters
formed a human chain and burned
banners and wreaths in front of
the building.

They are protesting against the
development of the Roxby Downs in
South Australia, claiming that
the area belongs to the Kukula people
and that sacred sites are being damaged
and others are under threat.

Special police squad was called
to try to control the demonstrations.

A spokesperson who came from a
number of environmental
protection groups, Western Mining
and BP have acted callously in
their bulldozing of sacred sites
to protect what could become the
world's largest uranium mine.

* And (of course) both RT-2 and BP are
benefiting from lack of land rights
in Australia, to start up new uranium,
diamond and other mines.

Blacks accuse WA Labor
over mining

The State Labor Government of
Western Australia has dropped its
demand for compensation for
Aboriginal communities, an Aboriginal
group says.

The Kimberley Land Council is
angry that the Government has
approved an environmental
review and management program
by the $439 million Argyle
diamond mine joint venture.

The council says most of the
compensation agreements are
not legally enforceable, and local
Aboriginals were not given enough
time to put their views.

The partners in the Argyle project,
Ashton Mining, CRA and Northern Mining,
have signed agreements with Aboriginal
communities under which the partners
undertake to fit the capital
works for the communities. But in
some cases there are no legal
documents.

A statement last week by the
Minister for Economic Develop-
ment and Resources, Mr Bryce,
said the Government was
concerned about informal arrange-
ments entered into by the
company with local Aboriginal
communities. The management of
these arrangements has caused a
social disruption in the
Kimberleys.

CRA faces Kimberley land rights opposition

CRA Ltd has applied for
exploration licences covering
one thousand square km of
the Kimberley region, but is
being opposed by the local
Aboriginal Land Council.

The 175 applications for
diamond exploration cover
vast areas along the Dry-
dale, Gibb and Carosu
rivers.

Some exploration companies
are more than a defensive
move, to block others from
gaining close to CRA interests in
the region.

CRA is the manager of
the Argyle joint venture,
which hopes to make a
decision to mine the
Kimberley pipe by the end of
next month.

Mining of the alluvial deposits began five
months ago.

The Kimberley Land Council is objecting to
the applications, claiming that
there would be considerable
risk to sacred sites in the
region.

The applications will be
heard by a Warden's Court
in Kununurra August 15.

CRA has said it will contest the
objections, and is continuing to carry out
remote mapping and surveys.

It will be a particularly
difficult issue, because the
new Labor Government has
indicated a much greater
interest towards Aboriginal land rights
than the previous one.

CRA's interest in the big
areas, which partly covers a
national park, stems from a
cooperation among many
explorers that other diamond-
ferous pipes exist in the region.

- John McIvor
We don't need ROXBURY

The biggest blockade of a uranium mine (indeed, possibly any mine anywhere) took place at Roxby Downs, South Australia between the 27 August and 4 September 1983, when 800 people blocked roads, took over parts of the mine site, held discussions with workers and acted in strong solidarity with the Aboriginal people whose sacred sites are threatened by the mining partners, Western Mining (Aum) and British Petroleum (BP).

Many arrests occurred in the opening days of the occupation—reported with some gusto in the British press. After that—blatant silence. And nothing since.

But the Aboriginal occupation of Cans Grass Dam continues, and is growing. So far the miners haven't been able to build their approach road to the north. And the South Australian government has, at least formally, agreed to finance an independent anthropologist to report on Aboriginal sites.

The mining companies produced some elderly Aboriginals from Coober Pedy below in September and in November, but the media didn't cover the protest that Cans Grass didn't lie on Aboriginal land. Manangurupem, a secretiveness body operating both as a mining company and a religious organisation has its clergy in those communities. Its director, Peter Daniell, is a real estate agent and a strong supporter of the Festival of Light.

Most disturbing, perhaps, is news that back in 1983, when South Australia was run by a Liberal (ie conservative) state government, the Department of the Environment recommended an ethnographic study of Kokatha Aboriginal community in an area to locate sites of anthropological significance. Unfortunately all such efforts have to date been unsuccessful.

From the very outset of the Olympic Dam project, both Jondal Resources have been fully alive to the importance which the Aboriginal community places upon its sacred sites. Consequently ever since 1983 representatives from the project management company Roxby Management Services have made repeated efforts to secure the cooperation of the people representing the Kokatha Aboriginal community in survey to locate sites of anthropological significance. Unfortunately all such efforts have to date been unsuccessful.

MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY
24/7/83

BP Australia Limited

ENVIRONMENTAL

10th August, 1983

This article has been compiled from information supplied by CAMS (Adelaide) and a press release from Kokatha, Arinburu, Yanakandura and Pitjandjara people meeting at Cans Grass Dam on October 3/4 1983.
Farmers and conservationists demonstrated at Eastville in Victoria (Australia) where RTZ's subsidiary CRA is now planning to use chlorine and chlorite, instead of potassium cyanide, in its gold mining enterprise.

The demonstration took place in May 1985.

Opponents of CRA claim the chemicals, contained in hydrochloric acid, will release deadly arsenic and copper into the groundwater.

CRA's proposals would automatically be banned in the USA.

According to Partisans reporter Vivien Duguid, CRA is planning mining in two Victorian shires (or counties) - one of which - Latrobe - has already opposed the company's illegal drilling (see story here).

Another shire, Melton, has unfortunately granted a permit to the company, but this is being challenged at a public hearing on December 5th.

CRA have two exploration leases where they are experimenting with solutions to the problem. The first lease is located at Eastville, near Melton, and the second at Yackandandah in the Shire of Mitchell, 40 km SW of Ballarat. Farmers in the district around Eastville have formed the Groundwater Protection Society, which is attempting to protect the "liquid gold" of the groundwaters for stock and irrigation and CRA's solution mining pipe dreams through the resource.

In August farmers around Mt Mitchell formed the Groundwater Protection Society, which was set up to fight CRA's three proposals in their district. CRA's older, but not yet drilled, at Wallan, which is being drilled immediately in the area. But they pulled up stakes quickly after the incident.

CRA's drilling rig was parked overnight at the side of the road. Imagine the horror when the drills were left in the morning to find all the pipes and machinery had been removed and a large site painted on the road, demanding "No new CRA"

The GPS and FOE do not invalidate this malicious destruction of CRA's valuable machinery. CRA demands that the GPS stop their work on experiments with their groundwaters and that they are continuing without approval.

REMELTING ALLEY

Comalco (now 67% owned by CRA; in turn 52.9% owned by RTZ) has developed a new computer-controlled remelting process for aluminium. Supposedly the most modern in the world, the Tomula plant in Sydney, New South Wales (Australia) will achieve 4% fuel efficiency.

According to Comalco's managing director, Mark Rayner, the savings is truly significant, and the technology is expected to be rolled out to other plants.

HAMMERLEY HAMMERS

Following a dispute over workers' claims, the strike-ridden Hamerley Iron ore co (CRA 93.7%) lost 1,400 workers at its Paraburdoo and Mount Price mines in Western Australia in September.

GOLD DRILLS

CRA is carrying out a half-a-million-dollar gold exploration programme north of Rattle, in Western Australia (NH 10/6/83).
It's no good pretending it was a happy success...the 1983 annual general meeting of RTZ was not, as expected, a happy occasion. Massively loaded against us, the "dissident"!

It opened at 2.30 in the afternoon - which meant that discussion could reasonably be curtailed at 6pm without the chairman's recommendations being a deliberate block on criticism. And whatever happened the preface would have been gone by then and nothing short of an armed attack would make the headlines next morning.

Most of the shareholders would have gone home, leaving the oh-so-patient tolerant demurrs of RTZ faced with thinning ranks of exhausting protestors: taking whatever questions was thrown at them from the floor, in the benign face of men who know they've thirty-odd million proxies tucked beneath their belts...

As it turned out, this was almost exactly what happened. Yes, there were press reports (one in The Guardian, a tibit in the Financial Times). But Rafiq Mughal had quit the ball before Tuke once again arbitrarily stopped the questions and called it a day. So he didn't report that many questions had at least been answered, nor that shareholders tore up their glossy annual reports in disgust.

"Worse still, the Guardian's Financial Notebook" recorded Tuke's excessive wisdom and humanity in tolerating its rationing of questions. Instead of shunting them through the doors as security guards and cops had done in 1982. Hamish McKeen has a short memory: in 1982 his column demanded that company chairman should sit tight answering critics' questions... until the sun comes down if necessary! (Meteorological note: the sun didn't set until 21.01pm on May 26th.)

On the other hand, we did anticipate some of this repressive tolerance and somewhat greater preparation for our knowledge we might have had, there seems little we could have done about it.

More pointed questioning, yes: a united front in the face of even more surprises than before. But, given we'd decided to get as many shareholders into the room as we could, and given the constraints of the chairman's recommendations, it was nearly impossible to answer all their questions. A questionnaire sent out to our own shareholders elicited a dozen responses, and verbal comments from a number of others. But we can't publish these as there have been misgivings on which we might want to act in 1984.

They were not a pessimistic as others might have thought, however. Virtually all respondents believed we should continue to attend RTZ's AGMs in some form or other. After all, this year we did get in on questions over six points of RTZ's operations than ever before (Indeed, than all previous years put together). That is now having its effect on "ordinary shareholding" of company shares, which was evidenced by the presence of a PLC spokesman at the 1983 AGM and - more important? - two investors who spoke out against the corporation's practices. One of them roundly condemned the Roseing Mine for violating international law; the other commented on problems concerning the Anglo-American share price. Both were treated with the courtesy which the company would claim, and what its critics alleged.

In the end, perhaps history will record a more balanced view on our actions at the 1983 AGM than the press (or we ourselves) give it.

Take-over or taken in?

At 6 o'clock, Chairperson Tuke once again abruptly closed the meeting after questioning was completed at which point dissenters called for a vote on closure. The dissenters lost by 49 to 58 million (the number of postal proxies held by the Chair). Protestors then tore up their annual reports and stormed out of the Europa Hotel.

Sir Anthony Tuke, chairman, deserves congratulation for the peaceful and disciplined course of the meeting, and for the courteous manner in which he allowed shareholders to make whatever points they wished about the group's activities.

OISSIDENT SHAREHOLDERS TAKE OVER RTZ

MEETING IN LONDON [137 1198] 

Seventy dissident shareholders took over the RTZ annual general meeting in London, 26 May 26 and bombarded the directors with three hours of questions from the floor. The meeting included members of Partizans, the Ramah Support Committee, the National Federation of Aboriginal Land Councils, Judy Monk from the Aboriginal Mining Information Center in Melbourne, Australia, and a collective from South America and Shorty O'Neill, the Aboriginal Consul to Europe. They were also joined by Ron Davies, representative of the National Committee on South Africa, which holds more than four million pounds worth of Rio Tinto Zinc shares, Davies attacked the company's "directors worldwide for willful disregard of human rights."

This year's meeting was scheduled for 2.30 p.m., an unprecedented break with tradition. Usually RTZ AGMs begin in the morning. The meeting of RTZ's Sir Anthony Tuke, claimed this was to facilitate critical discussion: protests claimed it was to prevent media coverage the day after.

Abandoning the customary address to shareholders, Tate launched into discussion of the annual report just 10 minutes after the meeting opened. From then on...

THE CHELSEA Flower Show has come to an end, and RTZ's AGM has been decided (with the help of new custodial agreement), and rain has stopped play at the 1st cricket match of the season. Summer is indeed with us, at last.

In the world of mining, the advent of summer is usually marked by two events, the publication of Consolidated Gold Fields' annual survey of the gold market, and the disruption of Rio Tinto-Zinc's annual meeting by dissident shareholders.

There was not much different about this week's RTZ meeting, however. In an effort to avoid a repetition of the violent scenes which accompanied the somewhat abrupt closure of last year's meeting at about one o'clock, the group opted for a 2.30 start.

This allowed the whole afternoon for the dissidents to express their grievances, and to RTZ's involvement in South Africa. Namibia, Australia and elsewhere, and the meeting ended quietly at about 4:30.

Sir Anthony Tuke, chairman, deserves congratulation for the peaceful and disciplined course of the meeting.

Partizans is now preparing a change of tactics before next year's AGM. "We're not to blame," said Roger Moody, "if being unrepresentative of just being a spectacle that drives conventional shareholders who still vote with the company in that nothing changes. Nonetheless, we think it's important to keep trying."

This year's group of dissidents was much smaller than anticipated shareholders quite unconnected with us getting to the facts to raise awareness questions. One of them, from South Africa, told us afterwards that while he didn't adopt our attack tactics, he was very disturbed by RTZ's public declarations and what he believed the company was doing.

Partizans is now trying to raise funds to publish the taped proceedings of the 1983 AGM and issue a cassette of selected highlights for anti-nuclear concerned shareholders and lanawyer groups worldwide.

Contact: Partizans, 307 Liverpool Road, London N1, U.K. Tel: 1-6905821.
GUAYMI STARVING

Very recently one of Partisans key supporter visited Panama and met members of the Guaymi community threatened by the huge CERRO COLORADO copper mine, as well as KT-Z employees and officials of the state mining company CODEPIN. The disquieting report sent back makes it clear that i) the Guaymi are seriously worried that the new mine will bring serious harm to their community, ii) the mine is only 'on hold' and KT-Z certainly has not relinquished its intention of plundering the world's largest copper deposit, when the market is favourable, and iii) already the building of a road through Guaymi territory has exposed the Guaymi to sickness and death through induced starvation, KT-Z controls a sickeningly silent on its responsibility for the consequences.

The full report - this is only an extract - is available from PARTIZANS. Meanwhile, the Guaymi support group is reviving its campaign for Guaymi land rights (the commercial, and can be reached at 7 Rectory Rd, London E 77

The R2Z men seemed tame and rather ill-informed to say the least, with the additional information that I got from personal at the mine. They said they could not say too much about the costs of keeping the road in use and maintenance until the mine reopened, though it did seem they would need to build a complete new road which (by the sound of it) would cut out even more of Guaymi land up. So, I asked what they were up to, and they gave me the dispiriting impression that the SO loving reason for keeping the road open was to provide 'social services' to the Guaymi community. Additionally they claimed that there were 7 people at most at the mine (usually lessland they were working for the Empresa (E.I.C.C.) where an 'improper' was no help. They told me that their presence at the mine was separate personnel - what has happened to the 13 people who are supposed to be working at this site?

I was in Panama at the time of the reports of the activity BRTA in approving/paying for the project of the KT-Z and an attack on the government in the Comarca. There are 5 articles to be finalized:

a) The delinquency/role of the tax authorities
b) The native path of the Comarca

c) The nature of the Comarca: whether or not it recognises private property

d) The decision to be taken on the question of natural resources

I am therefore, on Friday afternoon, after the meeting of the 13 people at the mine, and one of the 'missing' people is a specialist on the question of land rights.

Padre Ochena told me that the so-called agriculture and fishpond projects (from his pronoun of the story BRTA in approving/paying for the project of the KT-Z and the attack on the government in the Comarca) is that nothing will go ahead until the Comarca has been flatted and razed.

IS IT CRICKET. . . ?

Mr Carlisle's speech was elegant and well-received, but he did not make the traditional point about the different attitudes to business and politics in the West and the East.

There must be many this room who have substantial business interests in both the South Africa and good luck to them. Good luck to the directors of RZT and Barlow. But there are a few people who could not have remained directors of either, though President MDC, Sir Anthony Tuke, who is president of both.

BURSTING STRATEFIELD

In CONCRETE

As a former company secretary D.A. Stratefield, (sic) in charge of RZT COMM and made P.S. Willey the new company dogebody (RJ 30/9/83)

The Midland Bank has thrown out the Pedophile Information Exchange (P.I.E.) purely as a result of recent witch-hunting in the gutter press. Clearly it thinks PIE damaging to statements of British children, and the "listening bank" wouldn't have anything to do with the other hand, the Midland continues to be the banker for RZT and to our knowledge, none in the Midland has ever dreamed of closing their account - or even threatening to do so. Whether or not the intern of 6 St James Square continues to radiate children in Namibia, pollute their playgrounds in Canada, Australia and Europe and blight their future in Panama South Africa, New Zealand and elsewhere.

The Midland's hypocrisy has already provoked one Partisan supporter into closing his own account with them.

KISS-OFF DEATH TONGE CARRINGTON CROWS a fable for our times...

Where do live businessmen go - when they've made a bundle out of the rest of us? Into high office, of course - as witness those corporate Tri-state commissioners drafted into Carter's administration in the 70's and the high-clairs of the Docolith corporate who currently hold an in Raygun's cabaret.

But where do dead politicians go when they're thrown out of office? Into high business, of course!

Henry Kissinger set up Kissinger Associates to carry on US foreign policy by private means. And Lord Carrington - forced out of office by the Falklands factor - soon found himself as head of Britain's SEC.

Invitably the two men have come together, under Kissinger Associates. According to an article in the Sunday Times colour supplement (25/9/83) the company has "one or two" British corporate clients.

No prizes for guessing who one of these is very likely to be...